

instructing means for instructing a full text search based on the specification information.

Cont  
Sub A3 } 16. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of search results for a plurality of search condition combinations in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

outputting means for collectively outputting output information corresponding to the plurality of search results.

#### REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Kuechler et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Kuechler et al. do not address full text searches in which each of several combinations represents a search query which includes a plurality of search conditions, as in the claims as amended. 7

Kuechler et al. are concerned with the input and retrieval, manipulation and analysis of information stored in an information database. The system disclosed by Kuechler et al. employs search formulas, such as a range-query, so that the search relies on the

attributes of the search objects. In particular, information elements that match with the query specification are found using a topological map.

The examiner compares input device 22 in lines 50-59 of column 5 with the inputting device associated with claim 1 of the present application. This part of Kuechler et al., however, talks only of the input device 22 inputting information elements corresponding to potential search targets into an information base. The query is inputted into output device 30 as stated in line 62 of column 5, but not into input device 22. Referring to claim 2, the examiner cites lines between line 51 of column 6 and line 19 of column 7 and compares the format for the records against the table format of claim 2. The examiner might understand the "search condition" of claim 1 to be comparable to entities such as attributes of an information element, rather than to a query.  $\bar{u} = \bar{1}$

In the system of Kuechler et al., each query is expressed by a combination comprising one or more range-queries (see col. 11, l. 67; col. 12, l. 4; ll. between l. 67 of col. 13 and l. 4 of col. 14; col. 15, l. 64). However, the reference does not describe anything to teach or anticipate a manner in which all the queries of a combination are specified collectively.  $\bar{u}_1$

In contrast, an objective of the present invention is to offer a way of obtaining the results of a search in a table-and-graph format, and allowing a simple way of inputting a plurality of search condition formulas in association with a full text search system. Hence the present invention is different from Kuechler et al. in terms of both the associated technology area and the invention objective.

The present invention offers ways of conducting a full text search, in which a plurality of queries, each consisting of a combination of one or more "search conditions" are input collectively, and "search conditions" of any type, associated with the full text search, are accepted. For example, the system accepts character string searches besides searches based on a numerical-value comparison (range query). Hence, the "search conditions" can be of any type, and are not limited to those relating to the attributes associated with the search targets.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Claims:**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 11-16 were amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

an inputting device inputting specification information for collectively specifying a plurality of search condition combinations, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

an instructing device instructing ~~an information~~ a full text search based on the specification information.

3. (Amended) The search system according to claim 1, further comprising

a generating device automatically generating the plurality of search condition combinations based on the specification information, wherein

said instructing device instructs ~~an information~~ a full text search according to the plurality of search condition combinations generated by said generating device.

4. (Amended) The search system according to claim 1, further comprising

a changing device changing a portion of search conditions included in the specification information, wherein said instructing device instructs a selective ~~information~~ full text search for the changed portion.

5. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

an obtaining device obtaining a plurality of search results for a plurality of search condition combinations in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

an outputting device collectively outputting output information corresponding to the plurality of search results.

11. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

an inputting device inputting specification information for collectively specifying a plurality of search condition combinations, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions;

a searching device performing ~~an information~~ a full text search based on the specification information; and

an outputting device collectively outputting output information corresponding to a plurality of search results for the plurality of search condition combinations.

12. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

inputting specification information for collectively specifying a plurality of search condition combinations, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

instructing ~~an information~~ a full text search based on the specification information.

13. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

obtaining a plurality of search results for a plurality of search condition combinations in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

collectively outputting output information corresponding to the plurality of search results.

14. (Amended) A search method, comprising:

collectively specifying a plurality of search condition combinations in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions;

performing an information search based on specified information;

obtaining a plurality of search results for the plurality of search condition combinations; and

collectively outputting output information corresponding to the plurality of search results.

15. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

inputting means for inputting specification information for collectively specifying a plurality of search condition combinations, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

instructing means for instructing ~~an information~~ a full text search based on the specification information.

16. (Amended) A search system, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of search results for a plurality of search condition combinations in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions; and

outputting means for collectively outputting output information corresponding to the plurality of search results.